

April 14, 2006

TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE SENATE:

I am vetoing Senate Bill 617 which seriously inhibits the ability of the Office of the Commissioner of Insurance (OCI) to regulate preferred provider plans (PPP).

OCI has been working with the industry to negotiate a number of regulations that would protect consumers with respect to access to providers, cost-sharing and consumer notification. These administrative rule changes were nearly all approved by the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules, and OCI staff are working on compromises on the remaining few issues. This bill negates all of this effort and allows PPPs to severely limit access to providers, increase charges to consumers without notification to them, and drastically limit services provided by out-of-network providers, again without notification to consumers.

Respectfully submitted,

JIM DOYLE Governor